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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, UNSE, RW  
SUBJECT: USG INTERVIEW TRIP TO RWANDA

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: THE USG PLANS TO SEND AN INTER-AGENCY TEAM TO INTERVIEW PERSONS WITH FIRST-HAND INFORMATION OF GENOCIDE IN RWANDA. EMBASSY KIGALI IS ASKED TO IDENTIFY WITNESSES WITH FIRST-HAND INFORMATION OF THE ATROCITIES ORCHESTRATED OR COMMITTED BY THOSE PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF GENOCIDE, WHICH BEGAN ON APRIL 6, 1994, INCLUDING FORMER GOVERNMENT LEADERS, JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND THE MILITIAS. POST IS ALSO ASKED TO IDENTIFY NEUTRAL INTERPRETERS WHO SPEAK FRENCH AND KINYA-RWANDA WHO WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE TEAM. POST IS ALSO ASKED TO ADVISE ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF DUPLICATING EQUIPMENT FOR DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. EMBASSY KINSHASA IS ASKED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER WITNESSES WITH PROBATIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE ARE IN COUNTRY AND AVAILABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED, AS INDICATED IN PARA 1; IF SO, SOME TEAM MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS IN ZAIRE. END SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST.

3. THE USG IS PLANNING TO SEND AN INTER-AGENCY INTERVIEW TEAM TO RWANDA AND, IF APPROPRIATE, TO ZAIRE, TO GATHER EVIDENCE OF GENOCIDE AND OTHER ATROCITIES, WHICH BEGAN ON APRIL 6, 1994. THE TEAM PLANS TO ARRIVE IN KIGALI ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AND WILL LEAVE THE REGION ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6. ALL INFORMATION OBTAINED ON THE TRIP WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE COMMISSION OF EXPERTS AND, ONCE ESTABLISHED, A TRIBUNAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R MELONE  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 NOV 2004 200303979

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4. THE TEAM IS MOST INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWING PERSONS WITH FIRST-HAND INFORMATION OF THE CAMPAIGN OF GENOCIDE ORCHESTRATED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT LEADERS, JOURNALISTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND MILITIA -- IN OTHER WORDS, THE MAJOR PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE.

5. THE TEAM WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASCERTAIN WHAT EVIDENCE THE GOR HAS AGAINST THE 220 PERSONS LISTED ON ITS LIST OF MAJOR PERPETRATORS, AND TO MAKE COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AND TAPES IN THE POSSESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OR WITNESSES AND INTERVIEW PERSONS WITH PROBATIVE INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT.

6. DURING A TRIP WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHATTUCK IN AUGUST, THE JUSTICE MINISTER WAS GIVEN A LIST OF TASKS TO PERFORM IN PREPARATION FOR THE USG TEAM, INCLUDING IDENTIFYING WITNESSES; GATHERING ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSSESSION; AND PROVIDING DOCUMENTATION OF THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THOSE CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY. POST IS ASKED TO FOLLOW-UP WITH THE JUSTICE MINISTER TO MAKE SURE SUCH TASKS ARE COMPLETED BEFORE THE USG TEAM ARRIVES.

7. POST SHOULD ALSO CONTACT NGOS TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL INTERVIEWEES AND TO OBTAIN INTERPRETERS. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF THREE INTERPRETERS WERE FOUND WHO SPOKE BOTH FRENCH AND KINYA-RWANDA. IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE WILL NEED AT LEAST TWO AND PREFERABLY THREE, INTERPRETERS WHO SPEAK THE LOCAL LANGUAGE AND TWO FRENCH INTERPRETERS.

8. THE TEAM WILL ALSO NEED TRANSPORTATION TO TRAVEL TO VARIOUS PARTS OF RWANDA FOR INTERVIEWS AS WELL AS ACCOMMODATIONS. THE TEAM WILL ALSO NEED SEVERAL ROOMS IN WHICH TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES. THE FUND CITE FOR TRANSLATION SERVICES AND OTHER EXPENSES IS 1940113-1804-480256-2589-U.S. DOLLARS 3000.00

9. THE TEAM WILL CONSIST OF CRYSTAL NIX, STATE; MAJ. PATRICK O'HARE, DOD; AN INVESTIGATOR FROM FBI AND A DOJ PROSECUTOR. POST IS ASKED TO ARRANGE ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION.

10. THE TEAM WILL WISH TO MAKE COPIES OF ANY RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND TAPES. POST IS ASKED TO ADVISE ABOUT WHETHER DUPLICATING FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOCUMENTS AND TAPES THROUGH THE EMBASSY OR WHETHER THE TEAM NEEDS TO TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

11. SOME OF THE TEAM MEMBERS COULD ALSO TRAVEL TO ZAIRE IF THERE ARE WITNESSES WITH PROBATIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS OF GENOCIDE IN COUNTRY WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED. POST IS ASKED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH WITNESSES ARE IN COUNTRY AND AVAILABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED. IF SO, SOME OF THE TEAM MEMBERS WILL TRAVEL TO ZAIRE DURING THE SEPTEMBER 18 TO OCTOBER 6 TIME-PERIOD.

12. PLEASE SLUG REPLIES FOR L - C. NIX AND USUN/W - D SCHIFFER.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED CHRISTOPHER